

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

SWF-02 DRC-01 /178 W

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P R 092315Z AUG 74

FM AMERICAN SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1193

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 3297

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN,EFIN, DR

SUBJECT: BAUXITE: COMINICANS APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN IBA

1. FONSEC ANNOUNCED UNEXPECTEDLY AT HIS MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE AUG 9 THAT THE GODR HAD APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION, QUOTE AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE DEFENSE OF BAUXITE-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, THEIR INDUSTRIALIZATION, RESEARCH AND BETTER UTILIZATION OF THIS MINERAL AS MUCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES AS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH USE ALUMINUM UNQTE.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED: GODR EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH JAMAICAN GOVT'S POSITION TOWARD FOREIGN COMPANIES EXPLOITING BAUXITE IN JAMAICA, WHICH INTENDED TO OBTAIN MORE JUST COMPENSATION, AND WHICH WAS THE SAME OBJECTIVE IN DOMINICAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALCOA.

THIS POSITION WAS MADE NECESSARY BY GREATER EXPENDITURES DUE TO CONTINUOUS INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF PETROLEUM AND ITS DERIVATIVES

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AND IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF FOOD, CAPITAL AND RAW MATERIALS.

SINCE MANY OF COUNTRY'S NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES WOULD BE EXHAUSTED IN 20 TO 30 YEARS THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVT OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAD A HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN THE GREATEST BENEFITS FROM THESE RESOURCES IN ORDER TO CREATE THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. THEREFORE, THE GODR SUPPORTED JAMAICA AND ALL COUNTRIES SEEKING MORE JUST COMPENSATION FOR THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

3. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE MATTER AT SOME LENGTH TODAY WITH FONSEC GOMEZ BERGES. LATTER INSISTED THAT STEP WOULD HAVE NO BEARING UPON SUBSTANCE, NATURE OR METHOD OF NEGOTIATING WITH ALCOA. WHEN AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT BAUXITE ASSOCIATION IN EFFECT WAS SEEKING UNIFORMITY AMONG PRODUCERS, FONSEC REPLIED THAT DOMREP SOVERIEGN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY AND WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH ALCOA ON BASIS OF REALITIES IN DOMREP AND NOT RPT NOT AT DICTATE OF PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION. HE CONTINUED THAT WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT GODR INTENDED TO IMPROVE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS INCOME FROM ITS DWINGLING BAUXITE RESOURCES, ALL PARTIES CONCERNED COULD COUNT UPON THE MODERATION AND GOOD SENSE OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER. AMBASSADOR QUERIED FONSEC AS TO PURPOSE OF JOINING BAUXITE ASSOCIATION IF IN FINAL ANALYSIS BALAGUER'S JUDGMENT WOULD PREVAIL. FONSEC REPLIED THAT STEP WAS TAKEN TO DEMONSTRATE TO ALCOA THAT DOMREP, ALTHOUGH A SMALL COUNTRY, WAS NOT ALONE BUT HAD THE MORAL SUPPORT OF THE OTHER PRODUCERS. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT GODR WOULD QUITE PROBABLY BE OBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM OTHER PRODUCERS NOT TO SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN JAMAICAN LAW. AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED MEETING WITH EXPRESSION OF REGRET OVER GODR DECISION TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF OTHERS BY ENTERING PRODUCERS COMBINES AND OF CONCERN THAT STEP COULD ADD TO THE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES THAT EVERYONE WAS EXPERIENCING, UNLESS AGREEMENT REACHED WITH ALCOA WAS INDEED BASED UPON DOMINICAN REALITIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BAUXITE, COMPENSATION, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MINING INDUSTRY, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO03297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740219-0259
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740860/aaaabzfa.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAUXITE: COMINICANS APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN IBA
TAGS: EMIN, EFIN, DR, JM, INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005